UNITED NATIONS

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. SECRETARY-GENERAL CONDEMNS ATTACK ON BUS IN ISRAELI TOWN OF AFULA; OUTRAGED BY BOMB ATTACK IN HADERA

On 6 April 1994, the following statement was issued by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (see SG/SM/5258):

> "The Secretary-General has learned with horror and grave concern about this morning's attack on a passenger bus in the Israeli town of Afula, in which several Israeli civilians were killed and dozens wounded, including young children. He strongly condemns this act of violence, and extends his condolences to the bereaved families. The Secretary-General hopes that this outrageous incident will not be permitted to impede the ongoing negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)."

On 13 April 1994, the following statement was issued by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General (see SG/SM/5265):

> "The Secretary-General was outraged to learn of the bomb attack on a passenger bus in the Israeli town of Hadera today, in which six Israeli civilians were killed and more than two dozen injured. He condemns in the strongest possible terms this latest act of violence, as well as the recent escalation of violent incidents which have resulted in Israeli and Palestinian casualties. The Secretary-General urges the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to continue their negotiations and to implement the Declaration of Principles without delay."

II. PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPRESSES SHOCK OVER BOMBING IN AFULA

On 7 April 1994, the following statement was issued by the spokesperson for General Assembly President S. R. Insanally (Guyana) (see GA/8860):

> "The President of the General Assembly learned with shock and dismay of the bombing of a passenger bus in Afula, Israel, which resulted in eight deaths and the wounding of dozens of persons, including children. He sends his deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and hopes that such acts of violence will only steel the resolve of the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to continue to work for peace."

III. COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE CONSIDERS REPORT SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL

The Committee against Torture held its twelfth session at Geneva from 18 to 29 April 1994. Under article 19 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Committee is mandated to review reports by States parties to the Convention on their compliance with its provisions. On 26 April, the Committee began reviewing the first periodic report submitted by Israel (see CAT/C/16/Add. 4). Committee members posed a number of questions regarding allegations of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners, contained in reports submitted to the Committee by various non-governmental organizations, to which the State Attorney of Israel responded.

A press release issued on 29 April, citing the Committee's concluding observations, stated that (see HR/3978):

> "On the implementation of the Convention in Israel, the Committee said it was pleased to note that the General Security Service and police were no longer responsible for reviewing the actions of their own members. It welcomed the prosecutions and disciplining of interrogators who had breached domestic standards of conduct. The Committee voiced concern that the Convention did not form part of domestic law and regretted

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the clear failure to implement the article of the Convention containing the definition of torture."

"It recommended the incorporation of all the provisions of the Convention into the domestic law of Israel and that interrogation procedures be published in full."

Israel ratified the Convention on 3 October 1991.

IV. UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVES PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

On 27 April 1994, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) approved $40 million from general resources and $102 million in supplementary funding, as it reviewed country programme recommendations for five countries of the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as those for Palestinian women and children in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza. (The recommendations are contained in document E/ICEF/1994/P/L.23.) In introducing the country programmes, Mr. Sarojini Vittachi, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, stated that the prospect of peace offered a unique opportunity for regional development and for a renewed commitment to put children first. The regional office had encouraged an adaptive but strengthened country programming process, entailing more participation by key government sectors, non-governmental organizations, other United Nations agencies, and donor in-country missions (see ICEF/1794).

V. THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS ON JERUSALEM AND ON THE SYRIAN ARAB GOLAN ON 27 MARCH 1994

The following resolution was submitted on 7 April 1994 by Mr. Chawki Choueri (Lebanon), Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April 1994 (see A/48/923 - S/1994/403, annex):

"Resolution 5366 (CI), adopted on 27 March 1994 by the Council of the League of Arab States at its one hundred and first regular session

"The situation in the City of Jerusalem

"The Council of the League of Arab States,

"Having considered

the note by the Secretary-General,

its previous resolutions relating to this matter,

and the recommendation of the Political Affairs Committee,

"DECIDES

"1. To affirm the overriding importance of the Holy City of Jerusalem for the maintenance of peace efforts and the necessity of implementing the United Nations resolutions relating to the impermissibility of the alteration of its historical, cultural and demographic status;

"2. To urge the co-sponsors of the peace process to confirm their undertaking that the fact that the question of Jerusalem is not under discussion at the present stage in the negotiations does not affect the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, principally Security Council resolutions 252 (1968) and 478 (1980), with particular regard to the impermissibility of the unilateral alteration of the character of the Holy City;

"3. To reaffirm the resolutions of the Council of the League, particularly its resolution 4328 of 31 March 1984, on the adoption of

measures in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab Summit Conferences, and particularly the Eleventh Summit Conference, with regard to any country transferring its diplomatic mission to Jerusalem or recognizing the city as the capital of Israel;

"4. To condemn Israeli measures and practices aimed at the Judaization of the City of Jerusalem by stepping up settlement activity there and confiscating the property of Palestinian residents; and to urge the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on this question;

"5. To provide material support to the Holy City in order to enable its Palestinian residents to protect their landed property and prevent the occupation authorities from instituting further expropriations and seizures of such property;

"6. To request the Secretary-General to establish and maintain the necessary contacts for the implementation of this resolution."

The following resolution was submitted on 15 April 1994 by Mr. Chawki Choueri (Lebanon), Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April 1994 (see A/49/128 - S/1994/452, annex):

"The occupied Syrian Arab Golan

"The Council of the League,

"Having taken cognizance of the note by the General Secretariat and the recommendation by the Political Committee,

"Following with increased apprehension and concern the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and Israel's persistence in refusing to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and failure to submit to the will of the international community, which regards Israel's occupation and its decision to annex the Syrian Arab Golan as null and void and without any legal effect,

"Having studied the situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in the light of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities that conflict with the United Nations Charter, international agreements, international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions, as well as developments in the peace process,

"Having recalled its previous resolutions and also the international resolutions affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

"Decides

"1. To reaffirm its resolution 4126 of 13 January 1982 and its subsequent resolutions, the most recent being resolution 5323 of 21 September 1993, which expresses rejection of all the measures that the Israeli authorities have taken and are taking with a view to changing the legal, natural and demographic situation of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, regarding the Israeli measures designed to assert Israeli rule over it as illegal and null and void and constituting a violation of international agreements and the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 48/59 B of 14 December 1993, which affirms that Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is illegal and null and void and regards the Knesset's decision of 11 November 1991 as null and void and without any legal effect;

"2. To call upon the Security Council to assume its responsibilities for compelling Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy that call for complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and support for the Syrian Government in its efforts to put these resolutions into effect;

"3. To support the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab citizens and to assist them in withstanding Israeli occupation and its repressive practices and in adhering to their land and their Syrian Arab identity; and to affirm the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the citizens of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

"4. To urge the international community, and the United States of America in particular, to prevail upon Israel to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations relating to complete withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories;

"5. That the Arab States should affirm their resolute support and backing for the just demand of Syria and its right to recover the whole of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan on the basis of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy."

VI. EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 3 APRIL BY THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AT RIYADH

On 14 April 1994, the following text was transmitted by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (see A/49/125-S/1994/434, annex):

"The Ministerial Council considered new developments regarding peace in the Middle East and developments in the occupied Arab territories. In this connection, it expresses extreme concern at the deterioration of security and living conditions in the occupied Arab territories and places on Israel and full responsibility for the increase in the numbers of persons killed from among the fraternal Palestinian people; such slaughter is inconsistent with the spirit of the peace process and constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In this regard, the Council condemns Israel for the massacre committed by Israeli settlers against those praying in the Ibrahimi Mosque and calls on the Security Council and the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, to hasten the implementa-tion of the provisions of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), condemning the massacre and calling for measures to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, including the establishment of an international presence, the disarming of the Israeli settlers and the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Arab territories. It affirms in this connection that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are not legitimate in international law and that their continued presence constitutes an obstacle in the way of the peace process that undermines confidence and prevents the attainment of an atmosphere favourable to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The Council welcomes the signature of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement on the establishment of an international presence in Hebron and the resumption of the peace talks and reaffirms its full support for the peace process on all tracks, with the aim of arriving at a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of 'land for peace', the achievement of complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, first and foremost Jerusalem and the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination.

"The Council renews its call to the international community to put pressure on Israel to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) so as to achieve immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese south."

VII. EUROPEAN UNION ISSUES PRESS RELEASE ON CAR BOMBING IN AFULA

On 8 April 1994, the following press release was issued by the European Union:

"The European Union expresses its profound indignation at the tragic event which took place in Afula on 6 April 1994 and extends its sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

"The European Union has already firmly condemned all acts of violence which result in the sacrifice of innocent lives and calls on the PLO to condemn the attack.

"The European Union takes into consideration the Israeli Government's statement that this event should not be allowed to delay the peace talks and underlines once more the necessity of a speedy conclusion to the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians as the only way to avoid any possible escalation of violence by extremists."

VIII. EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE JOURNALISTS VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST ON A UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED NEWS MISSION

The Department of Public Information sponsored a visit to the Middle East by a group of 14 European and Japanese journalists. The visit, which took place from 6 to 18 April 1994, was organized in accordance with General Assembly resolutions on the question of Palestine, by which the Department was requested to promote news missions to the area.

The main goal of the mission, which included visits to Tunis, Damascus and Amman, was to examine the momentum in support of the peace process in the Middle East. The journalists met with a number of personalities in the area, including Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization, King Hussein of Jordan and the Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Mr. Farouk Al-Shara. The group also investigated the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people in light of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the PLO on 13 September 1993 (A/48/486-S/26560, annex).

IX. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

The information below was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights during the month of April:

1. News From Within, newsletter of the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. Volume X, No. 4 of April 1994 includes articles on the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, limits of cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis, and the political economy of "national security" in Israel.

2. The Other Front, a weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, is available from The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. (Fax (02) 253151.) The issues of 2 April 1994, No. 267, and 13 April, No. 268, contain articles on Land Day 1994, institutionalized terror in Israel, the Israeli Communist Party, peace demonstrations and the car bombing in Afula.

3. Middle East International, a biweekly publication, is available from P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States. Issues on hand: No. 473 of 15 April, which contains articles on the aftermath of Hebron, the intifadah, the draft Palestinian constitution, democracy in the PLO, and articles on other countries in the Middle East; and No. 474 of 29 April, which includes articles on the role of the Palestinian police, Goldstein and the Israeli Army, Israel and Hamas, Fatah and Hamas, Warren Christopher and the Middle East, and the agreement on water.

4. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, vol. XII, No. 7, April/May 1994. This issue contains articles on United States foreign policy, settlements, the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, Arab demonstrations inside Israel, the Israeli religious establishment, and implications of the Israeli-PLO Accord. Available from the American Educational Trust, P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States. (Fax (202) 232 6754.)

5. Forward, a Palestinian monthly magazine, is available from P.O. Box 5092, Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic. Issue No. 97 of February 1994 contains articles on Palestinian women, the Cairo Agreement and the Bedouins.

6. Israel and Palestine Political Report is published by Magelan and Association Mashrek Développement, Boîte Postale 130, 75463 Paris, Cedex 10, France. (Fax (331) 42465177.) Issue No. 187 of April 1994 contains articles on the Hebron massacre and its aftermath, and briefings on repression and settlement, Palestinian affairs, Israeli affairs, inter-Arab affairs, Christian affairs, diplomacy, arms and intelligence.

7. The Yale Journal of International Law, vol. 35, No. 1, Winter 1994, contains an article by Adrien Katherine Wing entitled "Custom, religion, and rights: The future legal status of Palestinian women". Available from the College of Law, 280 Boyd Law Building, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1113, United States.

8. Al-Haq, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, published the following press releases in April: "The latest tightening of the closure poses a serious threat to Palestinian community life", and "Urgent action needed to curtail human rights abuses in the Jalazon and Qalandia refugee camps". Available from P.O. Box 1413, Ramallah, West Bank. (Fax (972-2) 955194.)

9. The Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine is an educational programme of The Jerusalem Fund, a Washington-based non-profit organization. The Center is dedicated to the study and analysis of the relationship between the United States and the Middle East, with particular emphasis on the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The following reports were issued: Palestinian Statehood; The Water Issue and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict; and Palestinian Self-Government: An Early Assessment. These are available from the Center, 2435 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, United States. (Fax (202) 333-7742.)

10. Breaking the Seige, the newsletter of the Middle East Justice Network, is available from P.O. Box 495, Boston, Massachusetts 02112, United States. (Fax (617) 542 5056.) The April-May issue covers the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, the United States and the United Nations Security Council, settler ideology and a view from the Gaza Strip.

11. ASA News, a publication of the Asian Students Association, is available from ASA Media Centre, P.O. Box 8205, Kelana Jaya 46784, Selangor, Malaysia. (Fax (603) 775 0360.) The April issue includes an article on life under Israeli occupation.

12. April 17, a quarterly publication which focuses on Palestinian political prisoners, is available from the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. Issue No. 6 of April 1994 contains articles on prisoner release, the Hebron massacre, a case of administrative detention, the imprisonment of Ahmed Qatamesh, the detention of human rights activists, the prisoners' movement, reports from Ramle and Hasharon prisons, and disappeared Palestinian prisoners.

13. "Palestinian democracy: prospects & impediments" is a paper written by Adrien K. Wing which highlights selected characteristics of Palestinian civil society that might help or hinder the achievement of the goal of a democratic Palestine. Available from the College of Law, 280 Boyd Law Building, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1113, United States.

14. "Hebron massacre: a summary of events" is a compilation from reports by The Alternative Information Centre, the Hebron Solidarity Committee, Al-Quds, Yediot Aharonot, Ma'ariv, Ha'aretz, Shishi, The Jerusalem Post and The Jerusalem Times. A copy is available from The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. (Fax (02) 253151.)

15. "Partners in crime: the collusion of Israeli authorities in Hebron settler violence", published in April 1994 by the Alternative Information Centre (see above for address). It contains the history of Israeli settlement in Hebron, settler violence and the policy of the Government of Israel.

16. Press release of the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) of the Arab Studies Society is available from PHRIC International, 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008, United States. (Fax (202) 686 5140.) The following press releases have been issued:

10 April: "Homelessness in Jerusalem";

13 April: "Israeli Army demolishes family home of Birzeit student" (press release issued by Birzeit University and distributed by PHRIC).

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I. SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS AGREEMENT SIGNED BY ISRAEL AND PLO ON 4 MAY 1993 BRINGS THEM CLOSER TO GOAL OF LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The following statement was released by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on 4 May 1994 (see SG/SM/5278):

"The Secretary-General welcomes the agreement signed this morning in Cairo by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). He congratulates the parties on this first and major step in implementing the Declaration of Principles, and encourages them to sustain the negotiations over which they have laboured so intensively in recent weeks. He pays tribute to those who have facilitated the Gaza-Jericho accord, in particular the United States and the Russian Federation as co-sponsors of the peace process, as well as Egypt and Norway.

"The Secretary-General notes that each move forward, such as today's achievement, brings Israelis and Palestinians closer to the goal of peace, for which both sides have yearned. It also sets an example to the region as a whole. As the parties have themselves agreed, peace in the Middle East must be comprehensive, just and lasting, based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

"On this historic occasion, the Secretary-General appeals to the international community to fulfil its commitments in support of the Declaration of Principles, in particular with respect to the financial assistance which will be an essential element as the Palestinians embark on self-rule. For his part, the Secretary-General reiterates the readiness of the United Nations to lend the widest possible support to this process."

II. SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS TERJE ROED LARSEN OF NORWAY AS SPECIAL COORDINATOR IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The following statement was made by the Secretary-General on 25 May 1994 (see SG/SM/5298):

"I have decided to appoint Ambassador Terje Roed Larsen to Norway as my Special Coordinator in the occupied territories, effective 1 June. As you may be aware, Ambassador Larsen has played an important role in facilitating the negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles last September and to the agreement on Gaza and Jericho signed earlier this month in Cairo. I am delighted that the United Nations will be represented by someone with a deep knowledge of the area, excellent contacts with the concerned parties, and expertise in the economic and social fields.

"In serving as Special Coordinator, Ambassador Larsen will be a focal point for all United Nations economic, social and other assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied territories. He will provide overall guidance to, and facilitate coordination among the United Nations programmes and the agencies operating in the territories -- namely, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -- so as to ensure an integrated and unified approach to economic and social development. In addition to these coordinating functions, Ambassador Larsen will support the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, as requested by the parties."

III. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES COMPLETES FIELD MISSION TO EGYPT, JORDAN AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The following is a press release issued by the United Nations Information Service on 11 May 1994 (see HR/3993):

"The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories has completed a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Special Committee, established by the General Assembly in December 1968, is mandated to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel, namely, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to report thereon through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

"The Special Committee met in Geneva on 25 April and the next day proceeded to the Middle East, holding hearings in Cairo, Amman and Damascus.

"In the three countries visited, the Special Committee received testimony from 37 witnesses with recent and first-hand knowledge of the situation of human rights in the occupied territories.

"The Committee focused its attention on the development of the human rights situation since the signing by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington, D.C., on 13 September last year, of the Declaration of Principles. Nearly all the witnesses said the majority of the population welcomed that historic event, hoping it would bring about improvements to their human rights situation.

"The Special Committee noted that, despite the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the expectations raised, the human rights situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated rather than improved.

"The Special Committee noted that more than 1,000 prisoners were reported to have been released since the signing of the Declaration of Principles. However, the number of administrative detentions and arrests has recently increased, resulting in a lack of clarity about the number of those still under detention.

"By the terms of its mandate, the Special Committee, which comprises representatives from Malaysia, Senegal and Sri Lanka, reports through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly."

IV. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

On 12 May 1994, the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization, adopted by consensus a resolution entitled "Health conditions of the Arab populations in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine", making it a first in the organization's history. The subject, which had appeared on the agenda of every session of the Assembly since 1975, had generally led to contentious debates and resolutions adopted by vote with strong opposition from some member States. The adopted resolution, which is presented below, was the outcome of lengthy negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the Assembly (see H/2848):

"Health conditions of the Arab populations in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

"The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

"Mindful of the basic principle established in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security,

"Recalling the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid

on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations,

"Expressing the hope that the peace talks among the parties concerned in the Middle East will lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the area,

"Noting the signing in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which provides for the transfer of authority to the Palestine people during the interim period and in particular the responsibility for health services,

"Recognizing the need for increased support and health assistance to the Arab populations in the occupied territories including the Palestinians as well as the Syrian Arab population,

"Recognizing that the Palestinian people will have to make strenuous efforts to improve their health infrastructure,

"Aware that health development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

"Recognizing the need for providing support and health assistance to the Arab populations in the occupied territories including the occupied Golan,

"Having considered the report of the Director-General regarding this item,[1]

"1. EXPRESSES the hope that the peace talks will lead to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East so that the Palestinian people can be responsible for their health services and develop their health plans and projects in order to participate with the people of the world in the achievement of WHO's objective of health for all by the year 2000;

"2. AFFIRMS that the transfer of responsibility for health to the Palestinian people will lead to the development of their health system, thereby enabling them to meet their needs by managing their own affairs and supervising their health services;

"3. URGES Member States, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to assist rapidly and generously in the health development of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza and to do so in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

"4. THANKS the Director-General for his efforts and requests him to:

"(1) provide the required technical assistance for facilitating the transfer of responsibility for health to the Palestinian people in the interim period, especially in the following:

"(a) the carrying out of a comprehensive survey in order to identify the basic health issues to be dealt with;

"(b) the development of an appropriate health system;

"(c) the establishment of a comprehensive health insurance scheme;

"(d) the development and strengthening of programmes for environmental health and practice;

"(2) take action and make the necessary contacts in order to provide the required funds from various existing and extrabudgetary sources of funding for meeting the urgent health needs of the Palestinian people during the transitional period;

"(3) continue his efforts to implement the special health assistance programme, gearing it to the requirements of meeting the health needs of the Palestinian people, taking into consideration the development of the comprehensive health plan for the Palestinian people;

"(4) strengthen the role of the organizational unit at WHO headquarters on the health of the Palestinian people, and to follow up the provision of health assistance in order to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people;

"(5) report to the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly on the topics of the health assistance to the populations covered by this resolution;

"5. EXPRESSES its gratitude to all Member States and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and invites them to provide the necessary assistance to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people."

Fourteenth plenary meeting, 12 May 1994
A47/VR/14

[1] *Document A47/30.*

V. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND PLO REACH AGREEMENT ON FUTURE OPERATIONS OF UNDP IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The following statement was issued by the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations on 10 May 1994:

"An official agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was successfully concluded yesterday, the 9th of May 1994. The PLO-UNDP agreement was signed by Mr. Farouk Qaddoumi, Foreign Minister of Palestine, Head of the Political Department of PLO, and by Mr. James Gustave Speth, Administrator of UNDP.

"The agreement will govern the future operations of UNDP in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the basic conditions under which UNDP and its executing agencies shall assist the Palestinian Authority in carrying out its development projects and under which such UNDP-assisted projects shall be executed. In carrying out its activities, UNDP will seek to ensure the association, whenever relevant, of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, within the framework of the United Nations coordinating mechanism.

"The Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations welcomes the PLO-UNDP agreement, and expresses the hope that it will initiate a new stage for the work of UNDP in the occupied Palestinian territory. It also expresses sincere appreciation to all those involved in the successful achievement of the agreement."

VI. UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD ADOPTS DRAFT DECISION ON ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In concluding its work for the current one-week session that began 25 April, the Executive Board of UNICEF adopted a decision on assistance to Palestinian women and children (see ICEF/1799). The text of the decision is presented below:

Decision 1994/R.2/7.

"Assistance to Palestinian children and women

"The Executive Board,

"Taking into consideration the new emerging situation in the Middle East, the need for an increase of assistance for Palestinian children and women, and the need to follow an integrated approach in this regard,

"Requests that UNICEF monitor closely the rapidly changing opportunities to support Palestinian children and women; that it present to one of the Board's 1995 sessions a review detailing UNICEF's programme needs and activities in the field of assistance for Palestinian children and women that might be indicated by changes in the situation, as well as measures that should be considered in response thereto; and that it make an in-depth presentation on the matter."

VII. SAUDI ARABIA GIVES $20 MILLION FOR UNRWA PROJECTS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

The following is an UNRWA press release issued on 3 May 1994 (see PAL/1812):

"The Government of Saudi Arabia has contributed $20 million to support projects of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Fund for Development and Minister for Finance and National Economy, Mohammad Abalkhail, and UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen formalized the agreement at a signing ceremony in Riyadh today.

"Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Abalkhail said 'the long experience of the Agency and its sizeable staff on the ground would hopefully speed up the implementation of these development projects funded by the Government of Saudi Arabia in the interest of the Palestinian people and create urgently needed employment'. Expressing his gratitude for the generosity of the Saudi Government, Mr. Turkmen said theirs was the largest single contribution -- 25 per cent of the total received thus far by the Agency in support of projects under UNRWA's Peace Implementation Programme. The confidence of the Government of Saudi Arabia in the Agency's implementation capacity was very encouraging, he added.

"The contribution will be used to fund a number of projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Agency's Peace Implementation Programme - a major effort launched by UNRWA to improve services and infrastructure of Palestine refugees in the Agency's area of operations, following the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel in September 1993.

"The projects supported by the Government of Saudi Arabia under this contribution include: the construction and equipping of five new schools in Gaza and five in the West Bank, where over 7,500 Palestinian children will have the opportunity to obtain better education, as well as the upgrading of a number of Agency schools in the West Bank; the construction and equipping of a school of nursing and allied health services, the first of its type in the Gaza Strip, and provision of equipment for Shifa hospital in Gaza; shelter rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip; construction and equipping of three health points and one health centre in the West Bank, in addition to other projects in the health and social sectors.

"The Government of Saudi Arabia is a major donor of UNRWA and has been contributing $1.2 million to the Agency's regular programmes on an annual basis."

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

The information below was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights during the month of May:

1. News From Within, newsletter of the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. Volume X, No. 5, of May 1994 includes articles on issues surrounding the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Palestinian police force, the Palestinian economy, and the Palestinian Democratic Project - Hopes and Dangers.

2. Middle East International, a biweekly publication, is available from P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States. Issue No. 475 of 13 May 1994 contains articles on the Cairo talks, Israel and North Korea, Hamas, Palestinians in Lebanon, World Bank assistance to the occupied territories, and on other countries in the Middle East. Issue No. 476 of 27 May includes articles on the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli public's acceptance, Fatah seeking a new role, Hamas

debates on its next move, and articles on other countries in the Middle East.

3. Gaza Center for Rights and Law, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, issued its May 1994 report. The report examines the extent of redeployment of the Israeli forces, the status of the remaining Palestinian prisoners, and the effects of the continuing closure of the Gaza Strip. It also documents activities carried out by the Israeli army within Gaza since the hand-over to the Palestinian police force. Available from the Gaza Center for Rights and Law, Imam Building, Rimal, Gaza Strip, P.O. Box 1274. (Fax 07-866287.)

4. Forward, a Palestinian monthly magazine, is available from its Distribution and Public Relations Sector, Riad Abdul Rahman, P.O. Box 5092, Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic. The April 1994 issue includes articles on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Oslo Accord, American policy, the Arab League Council, and an article describing a traditional Palestinian home.

5. The Other Front, a weekly bulletin on development in Israeli society, is available from the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem. (Fax 02-253151.) The No. 275 issue of 31 May 1944 contains articles on the resurrection of the "Alon Plan" in the Labour Party and on the occupied territories.

6. Workers' Hotline for the Protection of Workers' Rights, a newsletter, is available from 78 Allenby Street, Tel Aviv, Israel. (Fax 03-5173081.) The May issue contains articles on Israeli-Palestinian labour relations, social security provisions of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, employment of Palestinians in the settlements, discrimination against East Jerusalem Palestinians in the civil administration, and minimum wage and its enforcement.

7. Jade (Jewish Arab Dialogue in Europe) is available from 25 Elliot Square, London NW3 3SU, United Kingdom. (Fax 44-71-483-3876.) The April issue includes articles on settlements, the Hebron massacre, Jerusalem, the Cairo Agreement, the impact of prolonged occupation on the Palestinian environment, peace groups, and on Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Baha'i religions.

8. ADC Times contains the news and opinions of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. It is available from 4201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington D.C. 20008. (Fax (202) 244-3196.) The May issue contains an excerpt from Edward Said's comments on the Declaration of Principles as well as statements made by other prominent personalities on various issues of concern to Arab-Americans.

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